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chapter for Tax Payers -



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1922

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Α

COMPREHENSIVE CHAPTER

FOR

THE TAX PAYERS

---OF----

WORCESTER.

BY A CITIZEN.

"What pearls and rubies does the wine disclose, Making the purse poor to enrich the nose! How does it nurse disease, infect the heart, Drawing some sickness into every part!"

WORCESTER: 1861.

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MARY 29,1922

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A CHAPTER FOR TAX PAYERS.

THE number of different persons arrested and committed to the Watch House annually in the city of Worcester, for the crime of Drunkenness alone, is not less than five hundred, as will be seen by the following statement, taken from the reports of the several city marshals for the years herein designated:

Year.					Number Arrested.		
1855,	-	-	-	-	-	496	
1856,	-	-	-	•	-	599	•
1857,	-	_	_	_	-	605	
1858,	-	-	-	-	-	516	
1859,	` -	-	-	-	-	510	

By this estimate, which is entirely reliable, it appears that the average number for each year is about five hundred and forty-five. The following calculation however, is based upon five hundred annually, which will give ample margin to satisfy the most skeptical mind that these statements are candidly and fairly made.

While there are five hundred persons who are arrested for being intoxicated, there are five hundred other persons who are liable to arrest for the same offence, but in some way evade the police and go free, which makes the number of those who annually, by the voluntary use of intoxicating liquor, subject themselves to the penalty of the law, for the crime of drunkenness, to be one thousand.

It does not seem probable that out of every six persons in the city of Worcester who are daily in the habit of drinking intoxicating beverages, there is one who gets drunk enough, once a year, to subject himself to arrest; but facts are ample to show that where there is one person who gets drunk once a year so as to subject himself to arrest, there are at least five habitual drinkers. The number of drunkards, as before stated, being one thousand, and the number of habitual drinkers five thousand, there are in this city, including those from other towns who come here to buy by the glass, six thousand persons who use intoxicating liquor daily, one thousand of which lie in the gutter at least once a year, five hundred out of that number being arrested and imprisoned for the crime of drunkenness.

Every habitual drinker consumes at least two glasses of liquor per day, making twelve thousand glasses per day for the whole number,

which being multiplied by three hundred and sixty-five shows the number of glasses for one year to be four million three hundred and eighty thousand. The average price paid for liquor, by the glass, according to the testimony given in the courts, is not less than six cents, making the amount paid in a single year, in this city, for that which only adds to human misery, to be two hundred and sixty-two thousand eight hundred dollars; consequently, if the sale of intoxicating liquor as a beverage, in this city, had been discontinued ten years ago, and the money which has been spent for the same paid into the city treasury, the city might now look with some degree of pride and satisfaction upon the snug little sum of two million six hundred and twentyeight thousand dollars! But instead of having this amount in the treasury, it has been paid to a class of heartless fiends, whose success in business depends upon the depravity of the community in which and upon whom they live; the best index to their prosperity being the deserted mother and homeless child.

The above named sum, if properly disbursed, would do much for the city of Worcester and its inhabitants. It would pay the entire city tax

for the last ten years, of one million three hundred and ninety-two thousand one hundred and twenty dollars. It would bring pure water into the city from Henshaw Pond, construct the necessary reservoirs and fountains, at a cost of five hundred thousand dollars, giving employment to hundreds of laboring men, at a reasonable com-It would pay one hundred thousand pensation. dollars for building a horse railroad from Lincoln Square to the foot of Leicester Hill. would pay the city debt of one hundred thousand dollars, without appealing to the financial skill of the mayor or aldermen. It would build ten churches at a cost of ten thousand dollars It would build ten school-houses at a cost of ten thousand dollars each. It would pay for building the alms-house, and the entire support of all the paupers of the city for the last ten years at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars.

And last, but not least, it would adorn and decorate the Davis Park with fountains and statuary, and lay out building lots all round it, at a cost of fifty thousand dollars.

After making all these improvements, and the above mentioned outlays therefor, there would

still remain in the treasury one hundred and eighty-five thousand eight hundred and eighty dollars, which might be invested in treasury notes for the vigorous prosecution of the present war against disloyalty and rebellion.

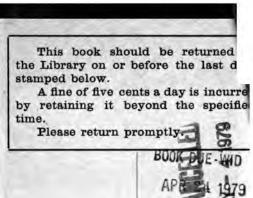
In making the above estimate, those persons who are arrested for disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, and assault and battery, numbering several hundred each year, nearly all of whom being more or less intoxicated, are not counted; therefore the broadest liberality has been shown in collecting and placing these facts before the public.

If there are any who feel that Worcester ought not to be held responsible for the acts of those who belong to other towns, although they buy, drink, get drunk, and are arrested here, let them apply these facts, for their own gratification, to the whole county, and imagine for a moment what two million six hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars would do by way of erecting court houses and jails, and building roads and bridges.

It would pay the county debt of two hundred thousand dollars. It would build ten court houses at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars each, and ten jails at fifty thousand d each. Three hundred thousand dollars 1 be expended on roads and bridges, and six hundred and twenty-eight thousand d in the county treasury.

Taking into consideration this vast an of money expended directly to the injury or race, the time lost in drunken revelry, the a energy of the victims of intemperance, the ease and misery which threaten the mod drinker, and the desolation of the dard's home, it is no wonder that we have city debt without the means of decreasin It is no wonder that penurious economy element for reflection among all candidate the office of mayor. It is no wonder that jails and houses of correction are filled to flowing, or that honest men fail in respectively.

Let the tax payers of Worcester reflect these facts, and consider whether it wou better to prevent the open violation of la the expense of a few thousand dollars, allow gamblers and rumsellers to contro city at the expense of millions.



lars each, and ten jails at fifty thousand dollars each. Three hundred thousand dollars might be expended on roads and bridges, and leave six hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars in the county treasury.

Taking into consideration this vast amount of money expended directly to the injury of the race, the time lost in drunken revelry, the abated energy of the victims of intemperance, the disease and misery which threaten the moderate drinker, and the desolation of the drunkard's home, it is no wonder that we have a city debt without the means of decreasing it. It is no wonder that penurious economy is an element for reflection among all candidates for the office of mayor. It is no wonder that the jails and houses of correction are filled to overflowing, or that honest men fail in respectable business, while the rumseller bids defiance to the laws, and grows rich at the expense of his victim.

Let the tax payers of Worcester reflect upon these facts, and consider whether it would be better to prevent the open violation of law at the expense of a few thousand dollars, or to allow gamblers and rumsellers to control the city at the expense of millions.

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